

Town of Bridgewater
Committee to Save the Bridgewater Village School Building
Minutes of March 1, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

Location: Bridgewater Grange Hall

Date: March 1, 2018

Time: 4:30 PM

Meeting was called to order at approximately 4:35 PM by Brian Bontrager

Present: Brian Bontrager, Hank Smith, Collen Doyle, William Young, Vicky Young, and Joni Kennedy

Visitors: Nancy Robinson

Discussion regarding moving our next meeting on March 6th at 5:30 PM to Wednesday, March 7th at 4:30 PM due to Town Meeting Day being on March 6th. Monthly meetings will continue to be the first Tuesday of the month and will now be at 4:30 PM instead of 5:30 PM and continue to be held at the Grange Hall.

Hank Smith – Presented an overview of two Towns that repurposed their schools in the towns of Wilmington and Wells. We will be gathering more data around this as more towns are being faced with similar situations of schools closing due to consolidations. We will be getting more information from several agencies regarding the different projects and revitalization that is taking place across the state.

Discussion about inviting the Fire Department/Community Building Committee to our meetings and also have some of our members attend their meetings in an effort to collaborate more.

Lengthy discussion and overview of the meeting held at the Select Board Meeting on February 27th at 4:00 pm with Robert Haynes of Green MT Economic Dev. Corp., Richard Amore, Planning & Project Manager, Community Planning + Revitalization, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Nathan Cleveland, Community Development Specialist, Vermont Community Development Program, Peter Gregory and Kimberly Gilbert with TRORC all regarding the Community Development Block Grant – Planning Grant/ and other grants, state and federal funding and resources available, overview of Village Designation, and RFP's. It was very inspiring to hear about all of the resources that are available to help restore, preserve and take care of existing historic and/or buildings, infrastructures, villages and assets in our Town and Community. The Town has agreed to send out a RFP on the Bridgewater Village School Building. Bob Haynes will be preparing one for the Town of Bridgewater.

Our group recommends that it goes out for the 45 days and that the ad includes pictures of the school building. Our group also recommends that the RFP be included in the surrounding Towns list serve through Vital Communities if possible. Other Towns that were suggested to include are Windsor, Hartford, and Norwich etc.

Brian volunteered to speak at Town Meeting for our group if community members have any questions.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting is on March 7, 2018 at 4:30 PM at the Bridgewater Grange Hall.

Vicky Young made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm and Bill young seconded it

The Committee meets once a month on the **first Tuesday of every month at the Bridgewater Grange Hall at 4:30 pm.**

We invite community members to join us at our monthly meetings as we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,
Joni Kennedy